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ing merit. The catalogue of their books comprises not a few of those which the scholar, the theologian, and the Christian would place in the very first rank ; and we deem it one of the most hopeful signs of our times that of these books some which might have seemed the least popular have found an extensive sale.

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- 29.— *Aspirations from the Inner, the Spiritual Life, aiming to reconcile Religion, Literature, Science, Art, with Faith, and Hope, and Love, and Immortality.* By HENRY M'CORMAC, M. D. London: Longman, Brown, Green, and Roberts. 1860. 16mo. pp. 370.

THIS is a book of aphorisms, sweet, spiritual, devout, arranged under different heads, but with the one sole aim specified in the title. No one can read it through continuously, but it is such a book as we should like to have always at our side, assured that wherever we open it we shall find some thought which will soothe, encourage, elevate, smooth the way of duty, make its crown look brighter, bring its reward nearer.

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- 30.— *Remembered Words from the Sermons of* REV. I. NICHOLS, late Pastor of the First Parish in Portland, Maine. Boston: Crosby, Nichols, Lee, & Co. 1860. Small 8vo. pp. 141.

THIS, too, is a book of aphorisms, in which we hardly know which to admire the most, the diamond-like brilliancy of the separate thoughts, or the fervor of rapt devotion which they breathe. There has seldom lived a man whose uttered words fell with such power upon the ear and into the depths of the heart as those of Dr. Nichols. In our last number we paid our grateful tribute to his soundness as a thinker and his loyalty as a Christian divine. We commend this little volume as preserving some of his choicest utterances. We have space only to give a single extract, in which he refers to the recent death of the son of one of his parishioners : —

“ A sudden storm has fallen upon the garden of your life, and laid low a flower so dear to you. 'T is like a crash out of a clear sky. It brings to my mind a passage in the Gospels: ‘ The people said that it thundered, others said that an angel spake to him.’ When Jesus prayed, ‘ Save me from this hour,’ — ‘ Father, glorify thy name,’ — it *was* a voice that said to him, ‘ I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.’ God has glorified his goodness in the dear son he gave you, and in so many other blessings with which he has favored you; and shall we not believe he is disposed to glorify it again, and means to glorify it again in the bereavement to which he has called you ?

"I know full well what public sympathy is uttering over so great an affliction as you have experienced.

"'Tis like a multitude gathered around an edifice upon which a burst of thunder has left its desolating stroke. They speak of it as such, and feel accordingly. But do they hear falsely who say, 'An angel hath spoken to them'? I believe not. I believe it is a voice divine, which whispers to you that lightning has two offices, — it comes to you with desolation; it strikes to the ground your dear earthly joys; but it shall return out of those depths of your soul into which it has cut its way, as the natural lightning returns out of the ground, in the green carpet of the fields, in the blooming flowers of the garden, and the lofty trees which aspire to the skies." — pp. 5–7.

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31. — 1. *Early Methodism within the Bounds of the Old Genesee Conference, from 1788 to 1828; or, The First Forty Years of Wesleyan Evangelism in Northern Pennsylvania, Central and Western New York, and Canada. Containing Sketches of Interesting Localities, Exciting Scenes, and Prominent Actors.* By GEORGE PECK, D. D. New York: Carlton and Porter. 1860. 16mo. pp. 512.
2. *The Life of Jacob Gruber.* By W. P. STRICKLAND. New York: Carlton and Porter. 1860. 16mo. pp. 384.

IN these volumes we have new and valuable records of early Methodism in the United States. Dr. Peck, in his "History of the Wyoming Valley," had already shown himself an accomplished and able writer; and his narrative of the labors, sacrifices, and sufferings of the pioneer preachers in the then wild and perilous region, now traversed in every direction by railways, and studded with cities and villages, — wrought out with no little rhetorical skill, — has the charm of romance, together with the edifying qualities of religious annals.

Jacob Gruber was one of the sturdy Methodist itinerants of the last generation, of iron frame, sterling good sense, ready wit, fervent piety, yet not without stubborn prejudices, and with nearly as strong an opugnancy to Calvinism as to sin. Gruber's was a very strongly marked character, possessing elements which, with opportunity and culture, might have developed into recognized greatness, and at the same time checkered by as strange a bundle of oddities as ever fell to one man's lot. It is worthy of remark, that in 1819, in consequence of a sermon in which he had spoken freely of the sin of cruelty to slaves, he was arraigned and tried in Maryland for inciting the slaves who heard him "to disobedience, insubordination, and oppression," and was successfully defended by Mr. (now Chief Justice) Taney, whose address to the jury on that occasion stands in strange contrast with his more recent deliverances from the Bench.